

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 01495 031545Z

46

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PM-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01

RSC-01 /047 W

----- 007179

R 030927Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 338

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

SECRET MANILA 1495

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: INCREASED MUSLIM MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH

REF: MANILA 1495 #

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM IN PRIVATE
MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR AND DEFENSE
SECRETARY PONCE-ENRILE MORNING FEBRUARY 3. HE HAD ENRILE
GIVE ME BRIEFING ON STEPPED-UP MUSLIM MILITARY ACTIVITY
IN MINDANAO AND SULUS, AND REVIEWED WITH ME FRUSTRATING
EXPERIENCE OF MELCHOR'S ATTEMPTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH
MNLF (REFTEL).

2. HE THEN SAID BOTH THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES AND THE
CHRISTIAN POPULATION IN THE SOUTH WERE DEMANDING
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PAGE 02 MANILA 01495 031545Z

PERMISSION TO RESUME MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FULL SCALE

AGAINST THE INSURGENTS. THEY FEEL THAT THE MNLF HAS MERELY USED NEGOTIATIONS TO BUY TIME FOR RESUPPLY AND THAT WEAPONS FLOW INTO SOUTHERN TERRITORIES HAS BECOME "INTOLERABLE."

3. HE WAS MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR SESSION WITH HIS MILITARY LEADERS AND WAS GOING TO AUTHORIZE THEM TO UNDERTAKE A TWO-MONTH CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO RECLAIM ANY TERRITORY OVER WHICH THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES HAD LOST CONTROL. HE WOULD STRESS THAT THIS ACTION HAD TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE MNLF IN THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL. HE REALIZED THIS WAS AN AWKWARD TIME IN WHICH TO REOPEN MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITY, BUT HE FELT ANY ALTERNATIVE COURSE WOULD MERELY RESULT IN ADDITIONAL TERRITORIAL LOSSES, ADDITIONAL AFP CASUALTIES, AND ADDITIONAL MNLF OBDURACY.

SULLIVAN

NOTE BY OC/T: # REFTEL AS RECEIVED

SECRET

NNN

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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